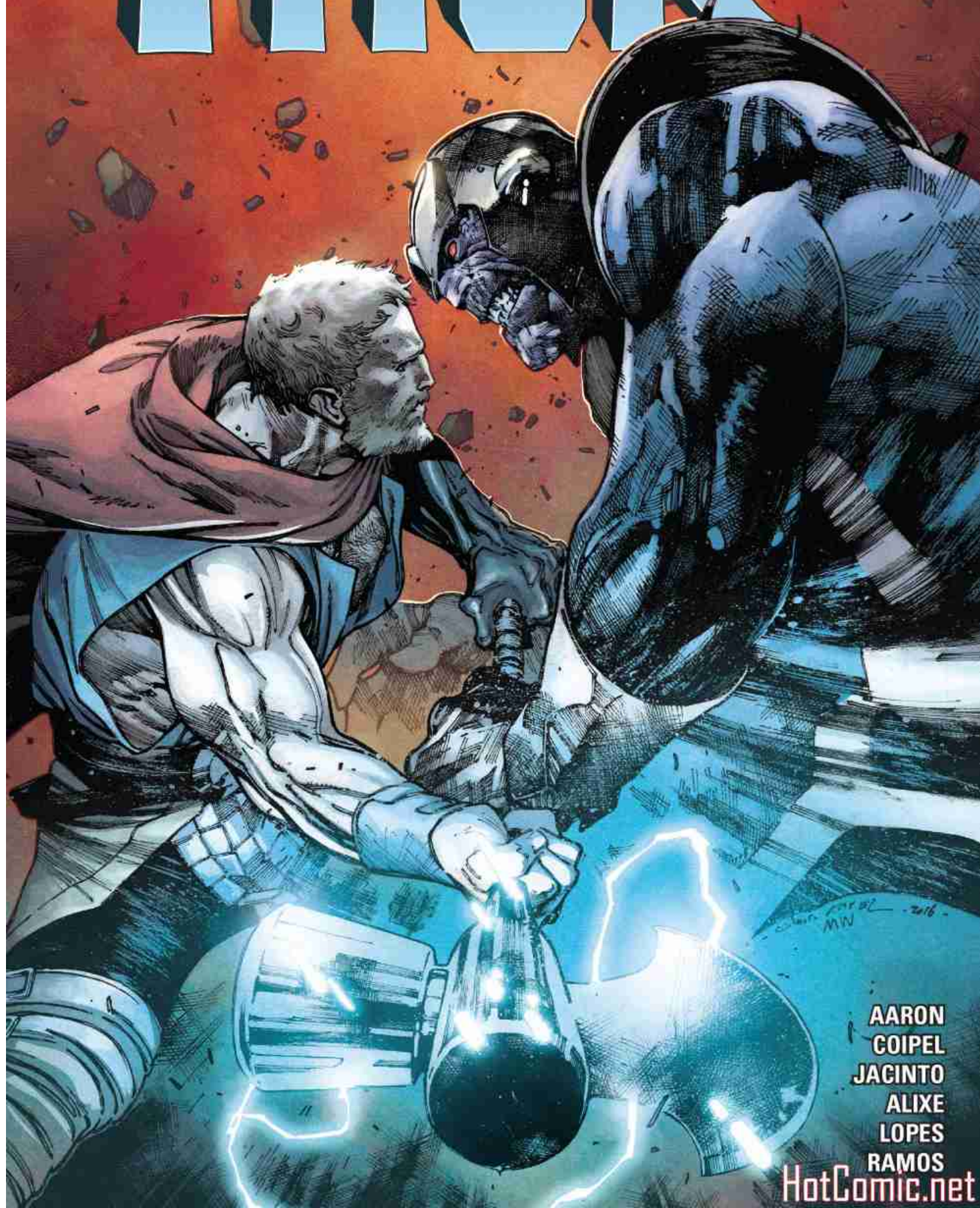


MARVEL

005

THOR

The unworthy



AARON
COIPEL
JACINTO
ALIXE
LOPES
RAMOS

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ON THE DAY THOR ODINSON LEARNED A LONG-KEPT SECRET STOLEN FROM THE WATCHER, HE DROPPED THE MYSTIC HAMMER MJOLNIR TO THE SURFACE OF THE MOON. TRY AS HE MIGHT, THOR COULD NOT LIFT HIS ONCE-FAITHFUL WEAPON. UNABLE TO POSSESS THE POWER OF HIS BIRTHRIGHT, THE THUNDER GOD RELINQUISHED THE NAME OF THOR AND NOW SIMPLY CALLS HIMSELF ODINSON. NOW HE SEARCHES FOR REDEMPTION, BUT UNTIL HE FINDS IT, HE WILL REMAIN...

The unworthy THOR



WHEN THE BEING KNOWN AS THE UNSEEN ALERTED HIM TO THE EXISTENCE OF ANOTHER HAMMER ON OLD ASGARD, ODINSON RACED TO THE RUINS OF HIS FORMER HOME, BUT FOUND THE ENTIRE REALM MISSING, STOLEN BY THE COLLECTOR. ODINSON AND HIS OLD FRIEND BETA RAY BILL CONFRONTED THE ELDER—AND LOST.

WITH THE AID OF ODINSON'S TRUSTY GOAT TOOTHGNASHER AND THE MURDEROUS HEL-HOUND THORI, THEY BROKE OUT OF THE COLLECTOR'S PRISON, BUT FOUND THEMSELVES FACING MORE THAN ONE ENEMY—THANKS TO A MYSTERIOUS HOODED ALLY, THE IMPRISONED THANOS HAD LEARNED OF THE SECOND HAMMER'S EXISTENCE AND SENT BLACK SWAN AND PROXIMA MIDNIGHT TO STEAL IT.

BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO LIFT IT. THE COLLECTOR HAS TRIED. BLACK SWAN HAS TRIED. NONE APPEAR WORTHY...

AND NOW ODINSON HAS REACHED THE HAMMER.

THE WHISPER

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THOR CREATED BY **STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY**



THE MAN
ONCE KNOWN AS
NICHOLAS FURY...
DIED ON THE MOON,
MANY MONTHS
AGO.

AND FROM
THE ASHES OF
THAT DEATH ROSE
SOMETHING NEW.
SOMETHING...



...UNSEEN.

THE FIGURE
WHO STANDS HERE
TODAY, WATCHING WITH
ONE ALL-SEEING EYE...
IS NOT NICK FURY.
NOT TRULY.

I DO NOT
FEEL THE SAME
EMOTIONS FURY ONCE
DID. I DO NOT DREAM THE
SAME DREAMS. I DO NOT
KNOW THE SAME
REGRETS.



EXCEPT
FOR ONE.

I NEVER
SHOULD HAVE
WHISPERED. I NEVER
SHOULD HAVE MADE
THE GREATEST OF THE
GODS UNWORTHY.
EVEN IF ALL I
SPOKE...



...WAS THE
TRUTH.

IT IS TIME,
SON OF ODIN.
TIME TO THROW
OFF THE YOKE
WITH WHICH
YOU WERE
BURDENED.

TIME TO
EMBRACE THE
FUTURE...

"...AND RECLAIM
YOUR DESTINY."

I FEEL IT.

NOTHING ELSE IN ALL OF
CREATION FEELS LIKE URU.
EVEN IF IT COMES FROM
A UNIVERSE I HAVE
NEVER KNOWN...

...THE HAMMER
STILL KNOWS
ME.

I HEAR IT
SCREAMING
MY NAME.

YES!
DO IT,
ODINSON!

NOW
IS THE
TIME!

I HEAR THE THUNDER
DRUMMING IN MY EARS,
AND I KNOW...

...I...



I AM THOR.

I AM THE MIGHTY THOR.

THE GOD OF THUNDER.

AND THIS...
THIS IS...



THIS
IS NOT MY
HAMMER.

YOU'RE
RIGHT ABOUT
THAT, ASGARDIAN.
IT BELONGS TO
THANOS.



AND PROXIMA
MIDNIGHT IS
TAKING IT TO
HIM.

WITH **BLACK
SWAN** BY HER SIDE.
AND WITH OR WITHOUT
YOUR **HEAD**, LITTLE
GOD.



THIS
IS NOT MY
HAMMER.

BUT IT **IS**
THE HAMMER
OF THOR--





YOU'RE RIGHT,
IT ISN'T GOING
ANYWHERE!



THAT HAMMER
DOESN'T MOVE
FROM THIS SPOT
UNTIL I'M THE
ONE WHO
MOVES IT!



AND YOU,
OPINSON! YOU'RE
GOING BACK IN YOUR
CAGE! OR MAYBE I SHOULD
HAVE YOU STUFFED
AND MOUNTED
INSTEAD!

NO ONE
IS GOING
BACK IN A CAGE,
COLLECTOR.
NOT EVER
AGAIN.



RIGHT,
DOG?



COME,
DUMB ANIMALS!
FOLLOW THOR!
TO FREEDOM!

FREEDOM
AND MURDER
FOR ALL!

NO. THOSE
ARE MY THINGS!
YOU'RE NOT
TAKING MY THINGS!



RRRK!
RIGHT, MASTER!
CAGES ARE
EMPTY!



I AM NOT
TAKING THE
HAMMER. 'TIS
NOT MINE
TO TAKE--



--BUT I
AM TAKING
BACK MY
HOME, YOU
BASTARD.

GAHK!
TAKE YOUR
HANDS OFF...

NOW,
ALLOW ME
TO GIVE YOU
A PROPER
ASGARDIAN
SEND-OFF.



SEE YOU
IN HELL,
COLLECTOR.

AAAHHHHH!!!



NOOO!!!

SIR, ASGARD,
THE ODINSON,
THE HAMMER...
THEY'RE GONE. JUST
GONE. THERE'S NO
SIGN OF THEM
ANYWHERE
IN...

BRING ME
SOMETHING
UNIQUE AND
BEAUTIFUL.

SO I
CAN WATCH
IT DIE.

BUT...I'M
SORRY, SIR, THE
CAGES ARE EMPTY,
AND I'M THE LAST
OF YOUR SOLDIERS
STILL FUNCTIONAL.
I'M AFRAID
I CAN'T...

YOU SAY
YOU'RE THE
LAST?

YES,
I...

HGGGHHK.

THEN
YOU'LL DO.

THE BLACK QUADRANT.

YOU DARE RETURN TO ME...EMPTY-HANDED?!

THIS IS BEYOND UNWISE.

PERHAPS YOU THINK MY BRIEF IMPRISONMENT ON EARTH HAS LEFT ME FEELING UNUSUALLY MERCIFUL.

YOU WOULD BE WRONG.

THE HAMMER WAS SPIRITED AWAY BY THE SON OF ODIN, BUT WE WILL TRACK HIM ACROSS THE COSMOS, MY LORD.

YOUR BLACK ORDER WILL NOT REST UNTIL WE'VE SKINNED THAT ASSGARDIAN AND CLAIMED HIS--

MJOLNIR WAS BUT A TOKEN. AS ALWAYS, I HAVE MY EYES ON MUCH GREATER WEAPONS.

AND AS FOR THE ODINSON, IF HE'S NOT EVEN WORTHY OF HIS OWN HAMMER, HOW IS HE WORTHY OF MY CONCERN?

BUT YOU--YOU WERE MEANT TO PAY ME A TRIBUTE, WERE YOU NOT? IN THE HOPES OF SECURING MY AID.

AND INSTEAD YOU BRING ME NOTHING.

I WOULDN'T SAY THAT...





ARE YOU
HOPING TO
CHALLENGE ME
NOW, WOMAN?
IS THAT YOUR
GRAND PLAN?

NO. JUST
PROVING A
POINT...



...THAT I
SHOULDN'T NEED
A DAMN TOKEN TO
SECURE YOUR
COMMITMENT. THAT I
CAN OFFER YOU SO
MUCH MORE.

CERTAINLY
MORE THAN THESE
PETTY CHILDREN
WITH WHOM YOU'VE
SURROUNDED
YOURSELF.

YOU ARE
BOLD FOR A
WOMAN WHO
HAS LOST
EVERYTHING.

BOLD?



I AM WHERE
THE BOLD GO
TO DIE.

I AM
HELA. QUEEN OF
NIFFLEHEIM. MISTRESS
OF THE DAMNED
AND THE DEAR
DEPARTED.

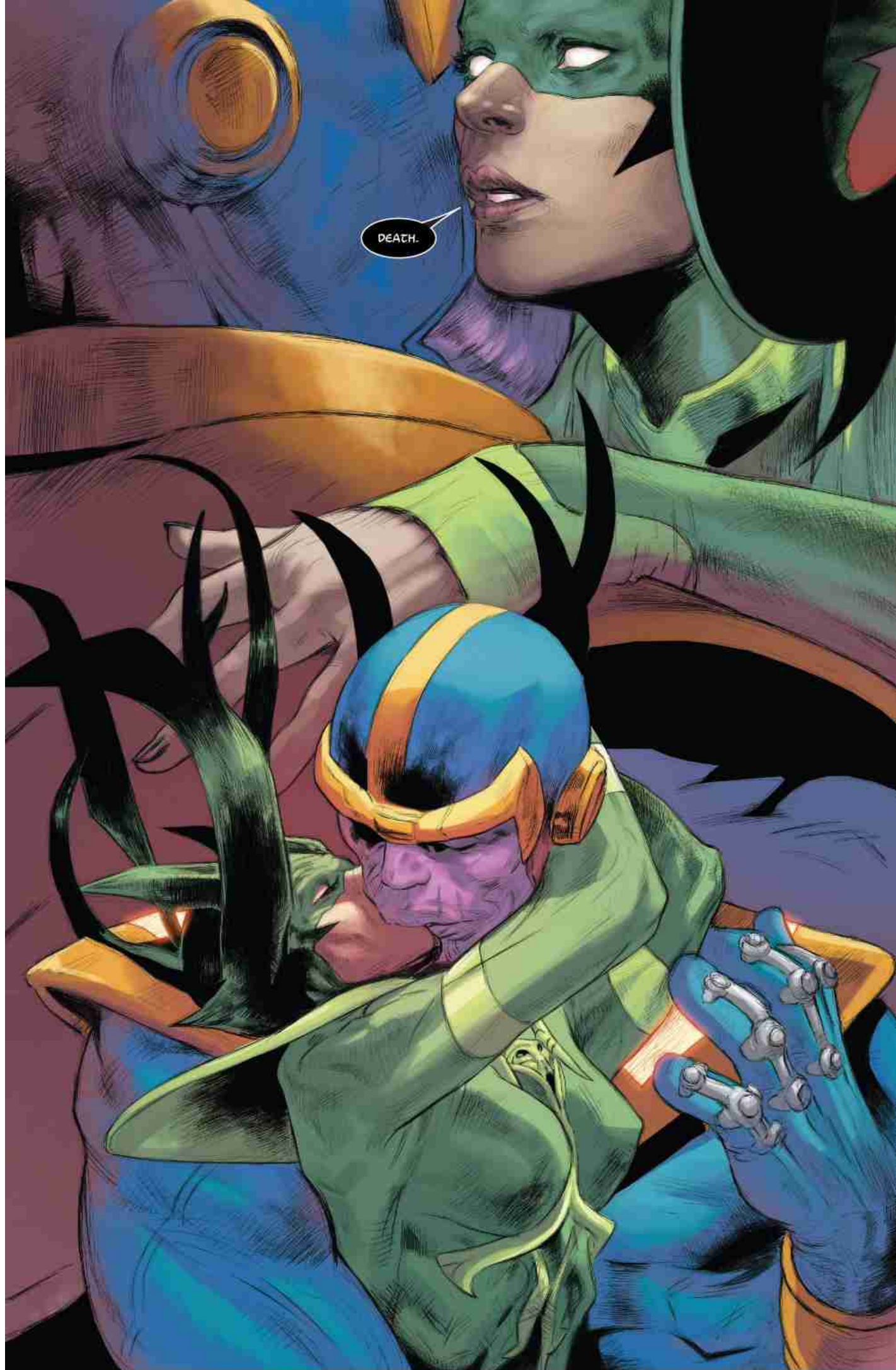
HELP ME RETAKE
MY KINGDOM, THANOS
OF TITAN, AND I CAN
PROMISE YOU WHAT YOU
DESIRE MORE THAN
ALL ELSE IN THE
HEAVENS.



MORE THAN
HAMMERS OR
GEMS. MORE THAN
CONQUEST OR
GLORY.

AND
WHAT IS
THAT?







OLD ASGARD
IS BACK WHERE
IT BELONGS.

ALL IS
AGAIN AS
IT SHOULD
BE.

NO,
MY FRIEND.
NOT ALL.

YOU ARE
NOT EVEN
GOING TO TRY
TO LIFT IT?

IT'S
NOT MINE
TO LIFT.

THEN
WHOSE IS
IT?

WHOEVER
IT IS, IT WILL
CALL TO
THEM.

AS MINE
CALLED TO
HER.

UNTIL THEN, I
WILL SEE THAT IT
DOESN'T FALL INTO
THE WRONG
HANDS AGAIN.



COULD YOU
HAVE PICKED
IT UP? IF YOU
HAD TRIED?

DO YOU
BELIEVE IN YOUR
WORTHINESS
AGAIN?



NO GOD IS
WORTHY.

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YOU
DON'T TRULY
BELIEVE THAT.
YOU *CAN'T*.

IF I DID
NOT...I WOULD
STILL BE HOLDING
MY HAMMER.

BUT EVEN
WITHOUT A
HAMMER, YOU
STILL FIGHT.



EVERY DAY,
YOU GIVE
YOUR BLOOD,
YOUR TEARS, YOUR
IMMORTAL SOUL...
TO PROVE GORR
WRONG.

THE GODS
MAY NOT BE
WORTHY, BUT
YOU ARE NO
MERE GOD,
MY FRIEND.



YOU'RE
THOR.

NO MATTER
WHAT WEAPON YOU
HOLD, NO MATTER
WHAT YOU CHOOSE
TO BE CALLED.

YOU WILL
ALWAYS BE
THOR.



AYE.
PERHAPS.

BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY, MY
BROTHER...WHAT I AM
RIGHT AT THIS VERY
MOMENT, WITH EVERY
FIBER OF MY IMMORTAL
BEING...

...IS
THIRSTY.

AND SO NO HAMMERS
WERE LIFTED THIS DAY.

BUT MANY FOES WERE
SMITED, AND MUCH
MEAD WAS CONSUMED.

AND OLD ASGARD
RECEIVED A NEW
SPARK OF LIFE.

WHILE I GAINED A MOST
INTERESTING NEW
CANINE COMPANION.

THERE ARE WORSE
WAYS TO END A
SAGA, I SUPPOSE.

THIS TASTES
BETTER THAN
MURDER!

THOUGH IT ISN'T THE END,
IS IT? NOT FOR THIS THING
OF URU AND THUNDER.
AND CERTAINLY NOT
FOR ME.

I AM THE ODINSON, THE PRINCE
OF ASGARD, THE UNWORTHY
THOR. AND WHILE I MAY NOT
NOW BE ALL THAT I ONCE WAS...

YOU MAY TEST ME AT
YOUR ODIN-DAMNED
PERIL.

I WILL BE HERE
WAITING.

 EPILOGUE.
DAYS LATER.



I HEARD
YOUR CALL.



AND I'VE
COME, EVEN
THOUGH I
DON'T KNOW WHY
ONE SUCH AS I
COULD POSSIBLY
BE CHOSEN
TO...



THE...
THE THINGS
I'VE SEEN. IN
THESE REALMS SO
CONSUMED WITH
BLOOD AND FIRE.
THE HORRORS.

THEY'VE
CHANGED ME.
THEY...

SOMEONE
MUST STOP
THEM.



THERE
ARE OTHER
THORS, I KNOW.
MORE WORTHY
THAN I COULD
EVER BE.

BUT RIGHT
NOW, THE REALMS
NEED A NEW KIND OF
THOR. A MUCH DIFFERENT
BREED OF THOR. ONE
WHO UNDERSTANDS
WHAT'S...

YES. YOU
SEE IT TOO,
DON'T YOU? NOW...
NOW IS THE
TIME...



...FOR THE
WAR THOR.



 **COMING SOON:**
THE SAGA OF
THE ALL-NEW
ULTIMATE THOR!



AND LO, THERE CAME... AXE ME A QUESTION

SEND LETTERS TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM, DON'T FORGET TO MARK "OKAY TO PRINT!"

There you are, Hammerheads. You waited patiently—well, most of you, anyway—and now you've got your answer to the burning question: What did Nick Fury say to the Odinson on the moon all those months ago? And it's a heartbreaker.

If you're new to Jason Aaron's THOR saga, put down the mead and get reading. You can find Gorr the God-Butcher's bloody tale in THOR: GOD OF THUNDER VOL. 1: THE GOD-BUTCHER; witness the battle on the moon that cost Nick Fury his life and left the Odinson unworthy in ORIGINAL SIN; and learn how Hela lost her kingdom in ANGELA: QUEEN OF HEL. You don't even have to take the Bifrost: Collections of all these stories are on-sale now in bookstores, online, and through Marvel Unlimited.

Whether you've just joined the Odinson's journey or have been there from the beginning, you now know one important truth: It takes more than a star-forged, storm-channeling hunk of uru to define worthiness. The Odinson will always be our hero. And if you need proof, Associate Editor Sarah Brunstad has collected some of this month's love letters to our Prince of Asgard:

Dear friends,

I'm sure it has been done before, but this is the first time that I actually paid attention to it: a fall from grace, a desperate god. Those are the things I wasn't expecting to find in a Thor comic, and yet, those are precisely the things that were needed the most. THE UNWORTHY THOR is more brutal, more savage (in my mind, more Viking), but also more human than previous versions of the character. There is nobility in Odinson and honor in his quest for redemption. I can't wait to see how this miniseries ends. Oh, and did I forget to mention that I absolutely love having Jason Aaron and Olivier Coipel working on one of my favorite Marvel characters? Now THAT is one worthy creative team!

Arcadio Bolaños,
Lima, Perú

Hi Arcadio,

Jason and Olivier are truly a dream team, and we've been so lucky to bring in talents like Kim Jacinto, Pascal Alixe, and color

extraordinaires Matt Wilson, Matt Milla, and Mat Lopes to add their own special touches to this crazy story—not to mention lettering master Joe Sabino. Thanks for following the Odinson's journey, and I hope you're joining us over in THE MIGHTY THOR, too.

Hello!

I am a super-duper fan of Marvel, although I never was a super-duper fan of Thor. Since I read (and LOVED) CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS, and I heard that the Collector was in UNWORTHY THOR, I decided to check it out. Boy, was I not disappointed. It is now one of my FAVORITE series! I have one clarifying question that has been bugging me. In UNWORTHY THOR, Thanos is in some kind of jail thing, at the Ultimates' HQ, but in Thanos' own series (which I'm also following), he's out and about, running around the universe. How is this possible? Does one series happen after the other? Does Thanos have magic powers we don't know about? Is there still a Thanos clone laying around? Or is Thanos finally putting the Thanos copter to good use? No matter the answer (although I hope it's the last one), I love both series and hope you guys keep up the awesome work!

Sincerely,
A confused but excited 13-year-old,
Dexter

Hi Dexter,

Excellent eye! The timeline got a little tricky here. The first half of UNWORTHY THOR takes place before THANOS #1, when Thanos is still imprisoned in the Triskelion. But over the course of the last half, we've caught up with the THANOS series; his scene in this issue takes place after THANOS #1. To find out how he escaped the Triskelion, check out GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #19, which comes out April 12! Hmm. You know, we probably should've used the copter...

To Jason Aaron:

I have been following your work on Thor since Gorr the God Butcher's storyline. It was a different direction for Thor—a lot darker, perhaps a little sick and twisted with Thor being pierced while imprisoned, or having a god's

eyelids cut off, but I was interested to see how the story would end. I give you a lot of credit for creating "King Thor," a wonderful character, even if he was tired of living too. That would just make the ending more heroic. Well, Thor banged two Mjolnirs together, and that was the end.

Then Thor took another direction. He was stripped of his hammer because of a mortal whisper. His arm was promptly removed. And he became a drunken god who spends his time wallowing in self-pity. The Unworthy Thor indeed!

I have been a fan of Thor since the '80s. Walt Simonson created the greatest story arc in all of comics. He did this by developing characters we cared about. Interactions we would talk about. Sacrifices that we would shake our heads at in disbelief. Manipulation that would make us think. Nobility that we could aspire to. Redemption that we would cheer for. And stories that we would cry over. The story of Eilif the Lost (THE MIGHTY THOR #342-343) was a two-book story that remains one of best in all of Thor comics. And it was a side story. That's how good THOR was.

Now, Thor is in chains, stripped not only of his hammer and arm, but also his nobility and heroism. I used to read comics to see how heroes overcome insurmountable odds and cheer them on. Now, I get a twisted, sick feeling as reading comics seems more like work than pleasure. This comic is not about the Unworthy Thor, it is about the unworthy writer.

Sincerely,
Guy Powers,
MD

Dear Guy,

Harsh words! But you know, even Jason would agree with your adoration for the legendary Walt Simonson. We all love those classic tales of godhood. The challenge of writing a character who's been around since 1962, though, is finding a new story to tell. And sometimes that means putting the character through their paces, even—or especially—when it hurts. I hope this issue assuages some of your anxiety about the Odinson's worthiness, or at least assures you of our deep love and respect for his vast history.

Check out upcoming issues of **THE MIGHTY THOR**, especially the saga of the all-new Ultimate Thor beginning in #20—you might find something just classic enough for your tastes.

Hello there,

I'd first like to say that I'm a big fan of your work! I started with **THOR: GOD OF THUNDER** #1, and haven't been able to tear myself away since. I've never written in before, but after all your work on **STAR WARS** and **THOR**, I figured I'd give it a shot!

So, the first thing I want to say is, "Keep up the good work!" **GOD OF THUNDER** is hands-down my favorite comic-book run, and I really love what you've been doing with Jane Foster in **THE MIGHTY THOR** and with the big guy in **THE UNWORTHY THOR**.

I just have one question, and it's about Odin.

Back when you had him and Thor fight, I always wondered why there was much of a fight to begin with. Odin and his son have clashed on multiple occasions, and Odin always wins by a wide margin. That's to say nothing of when Odin has gone toe-to-toe with cosmic beings such as Galactus, who barely give Thor a second glance (at least without the Thor-force). I also wonder why he's been acting like such an impatient child. Now, I fully admit that Odin, despite being a god of knowledge and wisdom, has not always acted with restraint, but it's kind of hard to believe that he'd be so fallible. It just makes me wonder if there's something going on with Odin that we aren't seeing. A being of his power would definitely be an obstacle to the Dark Council, so I wonder if there is something more nefarious going on than just dramatic writing. Any chance that I am on to something? I look forward to finding out in the coming months! Again, keep up the good work and I can't wait to see what's next!

Best regards,
Hayden Rock

Hi Hayden,

Thanks for writing in! You've got a point here about Odin's tremendous strength and power, but even the best father-son relationships are sometimes fraught with tension, and if you know anyone who can be reasonable during fights with family members, let me know, because I need THAT super-power. And after all, Odin and his son have a long history of world-shattering arguments—that's how the Odinson ended up on Earth way back in **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY** #83! Still, it's hard to know just what's going through the All-Father's head...

Jason Aaron's version of Thor will become one of the classic depictions, on par with Simonson and (sacrilege!) Kirby.

I haven't bought single-issue comics since the early '90s, always preferring to wait for the collections, but Aaron and Coipel on the **UNWORTHY THOR** are producing some of the most thrilling superhero comics of the decade. Jaded as I am, I eagerly await each installment of this series.

Goats, Beta Ray Bill, and now we have a hell-hound as well. Five stars for story, art, dialogue, and all-around awesomeness. This is a great story of redemption—and that glimpse of an earlier time when Jane notices that Odinson hesitates and watches each morning to see if he is worthy...that is just gold.

"I need a hammer."

Damn straight.

Tade Thompson
London, England

Thanks, Tade! Those pages in **UNWORTHY THOR** #4, by **MIGHTY THOR** artist Russell Dauterman, are truly heart-wrenching. Glad you're here for the ride.

Guys,

First Toothgnasher, then Beta Ray Bill, then you go all out and bring in Thor! Well done on the finest, maddest supporting cast since the "Manchester Gods" arc.

Love and hugs,
Geoff Davies
Manchester, England

Goats, Korbinites, and hell-hounds. If that doesn't sell a comic, I don't know what does. Thanks for the love, Geoff! (And for the call-out to **JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY** #639!)

Jason,

Last issue was good...needs more goat.

Tom Liscord



Tom, have you been reading my emails to Jason?! Listen: I hear you, I feel you. Hope this issue satisfies you AND your goat's cravings.

That's a wrap! But the Odinson's not going anywhere. And, who just grabbed that hammer?! Find out in **THE MIGHTY THOR** as the War of the Realms escalates and the all-new Ultimate Thor smashes into action!

See you there,
Sarah

NEXT:

THE MIGHTY THOR #17



ON SALE NOW!

THE MIGHTY THOR #18



